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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/723,155
Applicants : Sikora et al.
Filed : December 10, 2003
Art Unit : 3677
Examiner : N/A
Docket No. : TRG-321

Title : Releasable Snap Connection

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the references listed on attached form PTO-1449, which relate to the subject matter of the present invention, be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

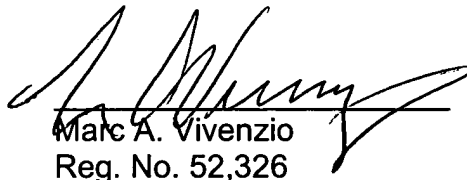
It is believed that no fee is due at the present time as this statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). However, should any fee be missing or insufficient, authorization is hereby given to charge said fee (or credit any overpayment) to deposit account number 12-2147.

Filed herewith are copies of the references listed on form PTO-1449. For each non English-language reference, the English-language version of the search reports from the counterpart international (PCT) and European applications which indicate the degree of relevance of said references as determined by the European Patent Office, is attached hereto in accordance with section 609(A)(3) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), second full paragraph, in fulfillment of the concise explanation of relevance requirement set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(3)(i).

While this statement contains all of the relevant information presently known to the Applicants, it should not be interpreted as a representation that an exhaustive search has been conducted or that no other relevant information exists. Moreover, the Applicants invite the Examiner to make an independent evaluation of the cited references to determine their relevance to the subject matter of the present application.

Finally, the Applicants urge that their claims are patentably distinguishable over all disclosed relevant information or any combination thereof.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorusso Loud & Kelly LLP


Marc A. Vivenzio
Reg. No. 52,326

Dated: February 22, 2005

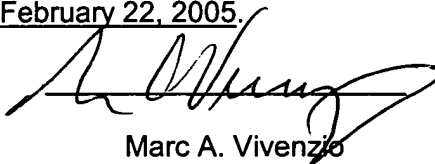
15 Rye Street, Suite 312
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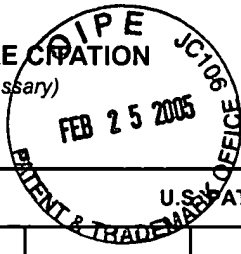
Sikora et al.
Docket No. TRG-321

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and any paper or document referred to therein as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 22, 2005.



Marc A. Vivenzio

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. TRG-321 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/732,155 | |
|  | | | | APPLICANT(S) Sikora et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE 12/10/2003 | | GROUP ART UNIT 3677 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 4 972 287 A | 05/22/1990 | Ohkawa et al. | | | |
| | | 3 925 860 A | 12/16/1975 | Furuya | | | |
| | | 4 539 735 A | 09/10/1985 | Kasai | | | |
| | | 3 664 512 A | 05/23/1972 | Smith | | | |
| | | 5 613 818 A | 03/25/1997 | McCorkle et al. | | | |
| U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
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| | | DE 21 25 431 A | 11/30/1972 | Germany | | | ✓ |
| | | AT 314 777 B | 03/15/1980 | Austria | | | ✓ |
| | | EP 0 434 978 A | 07/03/1991 | EPO | | | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
| | | | International Search Report for related Application PCT/AT/2004/000038 dated 06/04/2004 (2pgs.) | | | | |
| | | | European Search Report for related Application EP 03 02 5952 dated 12/05/2003 (2 pgs.) | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.